MINUTES
Board of Trustees Meeting
150 North Ottawa St
February 19, 2026, 6:00PM

1. **Convene and Call to Order**
   A regular meeting of the Board of Trustees of the Joliet Public Library was held on February 19, 2026. The meeting started at 6:03 PM with President Lynn Samalea presiding.

2. **Pledge of Allegiance**
   Gail Gawlik led the group in the Pledge of Allegiance.
   A moment of silence was held in memory of Digital Media Studio supervisor, Josh Phillips.

3. **Roll Call of Trustees**

   Trustees present: Samalea, Gawlik, Rohder-Tonelli, Bottomley, Gulas, Harris, Markley

   Trustees absent:,Ostrem, Henricksen.

   Staff members present: Megan Millen, Jim Deiters, Dana Perry, Lesley Rose and Kyle Eddt.

4. **Agenda Revision and Approval**
   Bottomley moved and Gawlik seconded to approve the agenda.

   The motion carried unanimously via voice vote

5. **Minutes Review, Revision, and Approval**
   Trustee Board Meeting Minutes – January 15, 2026

   MOTION: Rohder-Tonelli moved and Bottomley seconded to approve the minutes from January 15, 2026. The motion carried unanimously via voice vote.

6. **Treasurer's Report**

MOTION: Bottomley moved and Gawlik seconded to accept and authorize for payment Accounts Payable for February 19th, 2026 in the amount of **$77,241.46,** Checks Written Since Last Board Meeting on January 15, 2026 **- $318,006.22** and the Electronic Payroll Transfers on **1/30/2026 and 2/13/2026** - $318,006.22 **Total Accounts Payable $973,27356**

The motion passed unanimously with the following Trustees voting "aye": Samalea, Gawlik, Rohder-Tonelli, Bottomley, Gulas, Harris, Markley

MOTION: Harris moved and Gawlik seconded to accept and file for audit the 1/30/2026 Balance Sheet, the Report of Accounts, Cash Drawers. The motion passed unanimously with the following trustees voting "aye" Samalea, Gawlik, Rohder-Tonelli, Bottomley, Gulas, Harris, Markley

7. **Public Participation on Action Items –** None.

8. **Executive Director Report – Megan Millen**

A complete Report was included in the Board Packet. Following are some of the highlights of her report:

Project Black Road Update

Phase Two construction is progressing well, with meeting rooms and public bathrooms nearing completion. Furniture is arriving throughout February, and the project is expected to be substantially complete the week of March 9, with meeting room partitions installed in early April.

Black Road Branch Grand Reopening and Community Open House

The Grand Reopening and Community Open House will be held on April 24, with a 3:00 p.m. reception for Board members, staff, and dignitaries and a 4:00 p.m. public celebration. The branch will close at noon that day to allow for event preparation.

Passing of Josh Phillips
The Library community mourns the loss of DMS Manager Josh Phillips. Memorial services were held in January and February.

Route 66 Documentary
The Library will be featured in a documentary produced by the Joliet Arsenal Development Authority for the 100th anniversary of Route 66, highlighting the Library's location on the route and its upcoming 150th anniversary. Footage from the Project Burnham film was shared for the project.

9. Deputy Director Report – Jim Deiters

A complete Report was included in the Board Packet. Following are some of the highlights of his report:

The Library community mourns the loss of **Josh Phillips** and honors the impact he had on staff and patrons.

Chamber Community Leadership School (CLS)
The Library hosted CLS 2026 participants in January. Staff are exploring the possibility of hosting a program at Black Road this fall.

Illinois Public Library Annual Report (IPLAR)
Data is being compiled to complete the IPLAR, with a review planned with the Board President and Secretary after the meeting.

Pinnacle In-Service Day
The Pinnacle Library Consortium will host a joint staff In-Service Day on August 7 in downtown Joliet.

Benchmarking & Compensation Project
A review of job descriptions, salary scales, and payroll analysis was completed with HR Source, and updates will be implemented gradually.

10. Unfinished Business – None**.**

11. **New Business –**

ACTION ITEMS-

Motion to Approve the Revised Holiday Closing Schedule
Harris moved and Bottomley seconded to approve the Revised Holiday Closing Schedule
The motion passed unanimously with the following Trustees voting "aye": Samalea, Gawlik, Rohder-Tonelli, Bottomley, Gulas, Harris, Markley

Motion to Approve Closing Black Road Branch at Noon on April 24th, 2026
Markley moved and Harris seconded to approve Closing Black Road Branch at Noon on April 24th, 2026

The motion passed unanimously with the following Trustees voting "aye": Samalea, Gawlik, Rohder-Tonelli, Bottomley, Gulas, Harris, Markley

12. **Public Participation - None.**

13. **Staff Reports** –
A full report from department managers was included in the Board Packet.

14. **Announcements**

15. Closed Session to discuss pending or threatened litigation involving the Joliet Public Library, or a similar legal action that is probable or imminent, pursuant to **5 ILCS 120/2(c)(11)**.

Harris moved and **Bottomley** seconded to enter closed session at 6:32PM to discuss pending or threatened litigation involving the Joliet Public Library, or a similar legal action that is probable or imminent, pursuant to 5 ILCS 120/2(c)(11).

The motion passed unanimously with the following Trustees voting "aye": Samalea, Gawlik, Rohder-Tonelli, Bottomley, Gulas, Harris, Markley

Markley moved and Harris seconded to return to open session at 6:48PM

16. Adjournment

MOTION: Bottomley moved and Rohder-Tonelli seconded to adjourn the meeting at 6:48PM. The motion carried unanimously via voice vote.

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Secretary, Kelly Rohder-Tonelli Date